

THE LOGAN
Emancipation Cabinet

OF LETTERS AND RELICS OF

JOHN BROWN

— AND —

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Being an Article Prepared Specially
... for ...

THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CHICAGO
1892

COMPLIMENTS OF
H. N. RUST,
SOUTH PASADENA, CALIF.

THE LOGAN
Emancipation Cabinet

OF LETTERS AND RELICS OF

JOHN BROWN


— AND —

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Being an Article Prepared Specially
... for ...

THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CHICAGO
1892



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2010 with funding from

The Institute of Museum and Library Services through an Indiana State Library LSTA Grant

THE LOGAN EMANCIPATION CABINET.

Not all of the interesting and thrilling relics of American history are to be found in public museums, whether of high or low degree. The greatest curios of the world perhaps are stowed away in the private cabinets of wealthy people of taste and culture; and Chicago has its share of this class of people. Among them is F. G. Logan, the well-known grain-merchant, whose elegant mansion, at 2919 Prairie avenue, contains a collection of relics, literary and otherwise, which have been for many years the envy of curiosity-hunters. Their various owners have always regarded them as too sacred to be used for any mercenary purpose, and have never exhibited them to any but their choicest friends. But it is now probable

that the people of the United States will be allowed to look on them in the World's Columbian Exhibition of next year.

These relics have a unity of meaning and interest, and constitute in themselves the concrete embodiment of the most thrilling movement in American history. They center around John Brown and Abraham Lincoln, the author and finisher respectively of Emancipation, and the alpha and omega of American personal freedom. Some are letters, letting in a flood of light on their inmost traits and motives, and others are weapons and garments, steeped in tragedy, and associated with the most thrilling moments in their lofty careers. The time will come when they will be regarded as the heir-looms of the nation, and the most precious mementos of its noblest heroes and martyrs and of its proudest historical epoch.

Mr. Logan's John Brown relics have been in his possession only a few months,



HORATIO N. RUST.

and were obtained while on a tour through the far West last summer, from Horatio N. Rust, United States Indian Agent for California, at Pasadena, who was one of the bosom friends of John Brown, and who still sustains the most intimate relations with the Brown family. He has hoarded these relics for thirty years with the greatest devotion, and parted from them at last only from a conscientious conviction that the whole nation had a right to feast its eyes upon them at the Exposition next year. Mr. Rust is a man of excellent standing and reputation, and the following letter, in which he enumerates and surrenders these precious mementos to Mr. Logan will be read with interest.

South Pasadena, Cal. June 1, 1892.

F. G. Logan, Chicago,

Dear Sir:—Since I met you at my house in South Pasadena, I have well considered your proposal in which you have indicated a desire to benefit the family, and preserve

the relics and memory of John Brown, the Liberator, along with those of Abraham Lincoln, the Emancipator, names inseparably connected with a most important page of American history. Each gave his life that the nation might live free and independent.

When you first suggested that I spare the relics which his friendship and association had made so sacred to me, I thought I could on no account consent. But when I remember that the world may see them at the World's Columbian Exposition, and later in the proposed permanent museum in Chicago, where thousands may look upon them with interest, while only a few individuals could see them in my home, I am led to consent, and give them all to you. And I will esteem it a favor to be permitted to use my influence to secure all similar objects of interest, that this exhibition may be made as attractive and instructive as possible. I do this with the approval of Mr. and Mrs. Henry and Ruth Brown Thompson, who will also contribute some articles of interest. I have written to Mrs. Thompson's brothers, John and

Jason Brown, asking their co-operation, and such relics as they may be able to add.

Your generous proposal to furnish the means to purchase a first-class steel engraving of Capt. John Brown that I may sell the same, for benefit of the family, promises substantial aid to them, and gratifies me, as I have hoped to see a fine engraving of him hung alongside those of his countrymen who, for public service, we love to honor. I send you the following articles, with memorandum of each, to preserve their identity:

Field-glass used by Capt. John Brown.

Sabre presented me by Capt. John Brown.

Pike made at Collinsville, Conn.

Gun owned by Owen Brown.

Bowie knife used by Owen Brown.

Photograph of Capt. John Brown.

Autograph letter describing the sabre.

Receipt from J. Brown for money given him at Collinsville, Conn.

Hoping the above articles may all reach you in safety, I remain

Truly yours

Horatio N. Rust

Beginning with the John Brown autograph writings, which have never before been published, the earliest of these is a letter to his wife, written when he was a wool-buyer in Ohio. It is valuable only for the light it throws on the hero's character, as a level headed, intensely practical, and tenderly provident husband and father, full of industry and business, and with a mind microscopically careful of details. The letter is a singular contradiction of that estimate of his character which can see nothing in him but a fanatic and mad-cap.

Winchester Ct. 7th June 1854

Dear Wife

I have contracted away the Wool for Cash all to be paid in this present Month, & I want Jason at once to mark it & Ship it by such persons at Akron as Mr. Perkins thinks the *safest & most responsible*, taking a receipt for the number of pounds as now marked on the Bales, or for the number of Bales

The marks

for the weights now on the bags should *not* be altered. The direction on the Bales should be F. N. Holley, Wolcottville Ct.; & should be very plain. The receipt should be taken for F. N. Holley, Esq, for so many Bales of *Saxony Wool*, which Jason; *or Mr. Perkins*; should at once enclose in a Letter Directed F. N. Holley Esq., Wolcottville, Ct. The receipt *should say* that the Wool is to be sent from New York by the New York and New Haven Rail Road. The Letter should advise Mr. Holley of time of Shipment. If a few Dollars are needed by the family before my return Mr. Perkins will lend me a little to be returned when I get home I can not set out until some day next Week

Your Affectionate Husband

John Brown.

P. S. Have the wool come by Rail Road the whole distance.

John Brown.

Next comes a short letter to Mr. Rust referring to one of Mr. Logan's relics, and also to a contract for manufacturing another of them, both of which will be described farther on. It is as follows:

Springfield, Mass. 25th April, 1857
H. N. Rust Esqr
Collinsville, Conn.

My Dear Sir

I did not see you the other morning before I left; as I expected. Please hand line & Draft to Mr. Blair at once. The Sabre you got is *the identical* one taken from Lieut. Brockett at Black Jack surrender. I would *on no account* have you buy it of me; as you really have done; but that I am literally driven to beg; which is very humiliating. Very Respectfully Your Friend.

John Brown

Then there is a little receipt which Brown gave Mr. Rust for the proceeds of

a festival, held at Collinsville, Conn., which shows how the Kansas funds were raised in those days. It is as follows:

Received of H. N. Rust per order of the Officers of Canton Fremont Club seventy-five dollars being the money left after paying expenses of the Festival held here Dec 10th 1856.

Collinsville Mar 10 1857

John Brown

Accompanying this receipt is a little printed dodger, announcing this festival, which is a curiosity in itself. Over the top of it is a little cut of a tree for a vignette. It is printed in small type nicely displayed over an area of 2 by 3 inches, and reads as follows:

Fremont Festival. Sir; A Fremont Festival will be holden at Tiffany's Hall, Collinsville, Wednesday Eve., Dec. 10, 1856, to which yourself and friends are respectfully invited. Several gentlemen from abroad will favor us with speeches on

the occasion. Music by the Middletown band. Tickets \$1.00, including supper. Doors open at 4½ P. M. Exercises commence at 5 o'clock. Proceeds to be sent to the needy in Kansas. Per order of the Committee.

Wm. H. Hallock, Pres't.

Mr. Logan has one more John Brown letter, which is an affecting revelation of the old hero's motives and methods, when the struggle in Kansas was at its height. The careful conscientious wool-buyer has now become a self-denying apostle and warrior in the cause of freedom. Everything he could call his own has been sacrificed, his very life is on the altar, and he is appealing to the American people for the means with which to expose himself still further to the bullets and Bowie-knives of the pro-slavery party. This is the letter:

Springfield, Mass., 1st April, 1857.
Hon. A. H. Reeder,

My Dear Sir

As I find by conversation that your ideas of the true course to be pursued by the Free State men in Kansas are almost exactly like my own; I take the liberty of sending you the enclosed appeal &c : hoping that you may find it in your way to afford me some aid in securing the means of an outfit. I expect no pay myself, nor do I propose to pay any man who may serve under me. The only difference of opinion that I remember was simply as to numbers wanted; and I think that when you reflect that in the absence of Martial law nothing but *strong motives* can render men reliable; you will be as fully satisfied *as I am* that the kind of persons collected to invade Kansas; are next thing to no men at all. Such is certainly my experience of them. Exactly the reverse is the case with those who have *every motive*

& every principle to sustain them; in an hour of trial. I hope that without fail you will discover the necessity of your going out to Kansas this Spring. Shall be greatly obliged to hear from you here; Care of Massasoit House. I was formerly a citizen of Crawford Co, Pa, & am well known to Gen. John Dick, member of Congress from that district.

Very Respectfully,

Your Obedient Serveant,

John Brown.

P. S. If you go to K; you will *I trust* find the “Angel of the Lord encamping round about you.”

Yours in truth,

J. B.

This letter is accompanied by the veritable printed appeal and subscription sheet which was enclosed to Hon. H. A. Reeder, whoever he was. The appeal closes with letters of commendation from Governor

Robinson, of Kansas, and Gerrit Smith.
The document reads as follows:

TO THE FRIENDS OF FREEDOM.

The undersigned, whose individual means were exceedingly limited when he first engaged in the struggle for Liberty in Kansas, being now still more destitute, and no less anxious than in times past to continue his efforts to sustain that cause, is induced to make this earnest appeal to the Friends of Freedom throughout the United States, in the firm belief that his call will not go unheeded. I ask all lovers of *Liberty and Human Rights, both male and female*, to hold up my hands by contributions of pecuniary aid, either as counties, cities, towns, villages, societies, churches or individuals.

I will endeavor to make a judicious and faithful application of all such means as I may be supplied with. Contributions may be sent in drafts to W. H. D. Callender, cashier State Bank, Hartford, Ct. It is my intention to visit as many places *as I can* during my stay in the states, provided I am first informed of the disposition

of the inhabitants to aid me *in my efforts*, as well as to receive my visit. Information may be communicated to me (Massasoit House) at Springfield, Mass. Will editors of newspapers friendly to the cause kindly second the measure, and also give this some half dozen insertions? Will either gentlemen or ladies, or both, who love the cause, volunteer to take up the business? It is with *no little sacrifice of personal feeling* that I appear in this manner before the public.

John Brown.

Lawrence, Sept. 14, 1856.

Capt. John Brown:

My Dear Sir:—I take this opportunity to express to you my sincere gratification that the late report that you were among the killed at the battle of Osawatomie is incorrect. Your course, so far as I have been informed, has been such as to merit the highest praise from every patriot, and I cheerfully accord to you my heartfelt thanks for your prompt, efficient and timely action against the invaders of our rights, and the murderers of our citizens.

History will give your name a proud place on her pages, and posterity will pay homage to your heroism in the cause of God and humanity.

Trusting that you will conclude to remain in Kansas and serve "during the war" the cause you have done so much to sustain, and with earnest prayers for your health and protection from the shafts of Death that so thickly beset your path, I subscribe myself Very Respectfully,

Your Ob't Servant.

C. Robinson.

Capt. John Brown:

My Old Friend:—You did not need to show me letters from Gov. Chase and Gov. Robinson to let me know who and what you are. I have known you many years, and have highly esteemed you as long as I have known you. I know your unshrinking bravery, your self-sacrificing benevolence, your devotion to the cause of Freedom, and have long known them.

May Heaven preserve your life and health, and prosper your noble purposes.

Your Friend,

Gerrit Smith.

The heading of the subscription sheet reads as follows :

The undersigned agree to pay to
. the several sums we have
affixed to our respective names, to be by
him placed at the disposal of John Brown,
late of Kansas, to enable him to continue
his efforts to sustain the cause of Freedom.

But a more thrilling relic to look upon is an old artillery sabre, or cutlass, contained in Mr. Logan's collection. It is a short, straight, two-edged sword, the brass handle, without any guard, being indented to resemble a fish's scales. It has a leather scabbard, and is attached to a belt. Its blade was John Brown's model for a pike, of which he had a thousand made for the use of the Kansas patriots. But the manufacture of them was delayed by a lack of funds, and when they were ready they were used in the Harper's Ferry raid, instead of being sent to Kansas. Mr. Logan has in his collection one of the first of these pikes that was made. It looks

like the pointed half of the artillery sabre, fastened to a wooden handle, and having a transverse iron guard between the blade and the handle, which has been cut down, for convenience, to a length of only two feet. The following letters from Mr. Rust concerning the sabre and the pike are vivid and interesting:

F. G. Logan,

Dear Sir:—In 1857, while Capt. John Brown was at my house in Collinsville, Conn. he showed me a Bowie-knife which he took from H. Clay Pate, at the battle of Black Jack, Kan. He said, “Our people in Kansas need weapons. I would like to get a lot of similar blades, mounted on a forkstale. It would make a cheap efficient weapon with which even a woman could defend her cabin door against man or beast.”

He asked what they could be made for. I judged one thousand could be made for \$1,000. He requested me to investigate and report. I brought Mr. Charles Blair into my store, when he completed the con-

tract. This is one of the first completed, which I sent to Springfield, Mass., for his approval. It was returned, and by an oversight was not sent to Chambersburg with the balance of the order. I stamped the name on it, at the time, to preserve its identity.

Horatio N. Rust.

F. G. Logan, Esq.

Dear Sir: The accompanying sabre was given to me by Captain John Brown, during the Kansas struggle, while I was living in the village of Collinsville, Conn. Capt. Brown, while stopping at my house, related his account of the battle of Black Jack, Kan., where he captured H. Clay Pate and twenty-five pro-slavery men, who had sworn to capture Capt. Brown. When Pate ordered his men to surrender, Lieut. Brockett swore he would not throw down his weapons for eight men, saying "You can take them from me." Oliver Brown, who was killed at Harper's Ferry, took this sabre from him, and also related the circumstance to me.

Capt. Brown sent to me from Kansas a box of pistols to be repaired, and in the

same box he sent me this sabre. I paid the charge upon it, and to this he refers in his letter, saying "I would on no account have you pay me for it, as you really have done, but that I am literally driven to begging, which is very humiliating."

Truly yours,

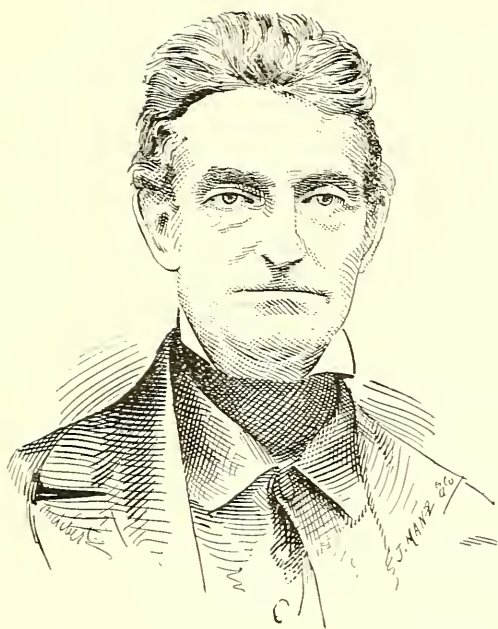
Horatio N. Rust.

Of the same character is a good sized Bowie-knife, which Owen Brown wore when he was with John Brown at Harper's Ferry. Owen Brown was the only one of the Browns that escaped from that place, and it was this primitive razor-edged weapon that kept him company and kept hope alive during his flight. Mr. Rust refers to it in the following note:

F. G. Logan,

Dear Sir:

The knife I send you was carried by Owen Brown, for self-defense, while on his way from Harper's Ferry north, after the raid, when he escaped. After his death, in Pasadena, Cal., Jan. 8, 1889,



JOHN BROWN.

his brother, Jason Brown, gave me this knife. I am pleased to add it to your collection for the Exposition.

Horatio N. Rust.

The last of the Brown relics is John Brown's field-glass, which he used all the time that he was fighting Freedom's battles in Kansas. It would not be considered a fashionable opera glass at the present day, but it solemnizes a man to look at it and think where it has been. Mr. Rust refers to it as follows:

F. G. Logan, Esq.

This field-glass was used by Capt. John Brown through his campaigning in Kansas, and later was presented to me by his heirs, as a token of esteem. I send you this, feeling that it may gratify many friends of freedom who will visit the Exposition to look upon the glass through which John Brown, the Liberator, looked down into the future, and helped to read aloud the Emancipation Proclamation.

Horatio N. Rust.

The last but not the least of these Brown relics is a particularly fine cabinet-size photograph of John Brown, without beard or mustache. To those who have seen only the bearded likenesses, this picture is a new and startling revelation of his character. The eyes are large, honest and sympathetic, the mouth wide but straight, and the lips thin and compressed. The whole countenance is highly expressive of intelligence, benevolence and determination, with a dash of sadness and anxiety. Compared with this face, the bearded picture looks like a bandit.

*
* *

In his Lincoln collection Mr. Logan has two or three autograph letters, but none that he prizes very highly, except one that was addressed to a member of his own family. This is a short letter that Lincoln wrote to Mrs. Logan's father, Colonel John L. Hancock, who was for

two successive terms, during the war,
president of the Chicago Board of Trade.
It is as follows:

Washington, D. C., June 26, 1863.

Hon. John L. Hancock,

President of the Board of Trade.

Sir:

Yours of the 13th is just received. The last letter as you stated to me was that the 113th Regiment Illinois Volunteers are at Vicksburg and holding out nobly against the enemy. Further than this no news has been received of any importance.

Yours Very Truly,

A. Lincoln.

Mr. Logan's other Lincoln relics were all obtained from two well-known characters in the city of Washington, one of whom was with Lincoln when he was assassinated and the other with him when he died, and both of whom were his trusted servants and employes, and as such have



CHARLES FORBES.

held office in Washington ever since. Charles Forbes is a well-known clerk in the War Department, and Thomas F. Pendel is a trusted employe at the White House. The following letters, certificates and affidavits give the history of these relics:

Executive Mansion,
Washington, Oct. 21, 1889.

I was confidential attendant to President Lincoln, and with him in the box at Ford's Theatre the night he was assassinated. He wore that evening a black suit of clothes the frock coat of which I gave to Thomas Pendel of this city. The remainder of the suit is now scattered, with the exception of the black stock which he wore about his neck, which came into my possession, and was by me presented to F. G. Logan, Esq., of Chicago.

Charles Forbes.

Washington, July 31, 1892.

Dear Mr. Logan:—Your letter of the 20th inst. was duly received, as well as your receipt for the registered package containing the photograph. I am perfectly



THOMAS F. PENDEL.

willing to make an affidavit, as you suggest, as to those articles which you received directly from me, and which never have been out of my possession. As for the coat, which you received from Mr. Pendel, I cannot be so positive. From the time I gave the coat to Pendel up to this time, I never have seen it. As for the shawl, it is undoubtedly the one to which you refer as to his wearing it at the Cooper Union meeting in the Fall of 1860. He brought it with him from Springfield, and it is the only one he ever had while he was President. He never left the White House without it, and even on the warmest of days or evenings he would have it spread over his knees in the carriage.

As for the few articles which I still possess, which formerly belonged to the great Emancipator, as I said on a former occasion, if I were to part with them at all, I know of no one to whom I would give them up more willingly than to yourself. For, I feel that you have that same reverence for that great and good man that I have myself. I know you will believe me when I say that I would not part

with them unless to one who, like yourself, reverences the memory of him with whom they are associated, and will see that they are tenderly and carefully preserved. The idea of a cabinet for the preservation of these articles pleases me very much. If I can ever be of any future use to you in the matter, you may confidently rely on me.

I am sincerely yours,

Charles Forbes.

On this 17th day of September, A. D., 1892, before me, Anson S. Taylor, a notary public in and for the District of Columbia aforesaid, personally appeared Charles Forbes, a resident of the city of Washington, whose post-office address is No. 1711 G st., N. W., Washington, D. C., who being duly sworn, declares and says as follows:

I was the personal attendant of the late President Lincoln from shortly after his first inauguration up to the time when he fell by the assassin's bullet. Shortly after his death, when Mrs. Lincoln was packing her things preparatory to vacating the White House, she gave me the full suit of

clothes which the President wore the night of the assassination, together with other personal belongings of my friend and benefactor. I asked her "What shall I do with them?" and she said "Do anything you like with them. Don't let me see them again."

Mr. F. G. Logan, of Chicago, is now the custodian and possessor of some of these articles, among them being the stock that he wore on the night of the 14th day of April, 1865; the knife which he ordinarily carried in his pocket; the shawl which was his constant companion, both day and night, winter and summer, and which was the same one brought from Springfield by him; the cane which was made from the old rebel Merrimac, and which he himself presented to me some time before his death; and the photograph of himself, which contained his last bit of writing, in the shape of his autograph. "Tad" had given me the picture in the afternoon, and I still had it in my pocket when Mrs. Lincoln and her guests were ready to start for the theatre. The President was engaged, and told them to go

ahead, and send the carriage back for him. I accompanied them to the theatre, and returned in the carriage for the President. When the last visitor had departed, and I helped him on with his great coat, I remembered the picture, and said: "Mr. President, Tad gave me a photograph this afternoon, and I wish you would put your name on the bottom of it." "Certainly, Charley," replied the President, and picking up a pen, he wrote his name on the photograph; and that is the last writing he ever did. For I accompanied him in the carriage, was with him from the carriage to the box in the theatre, and was in the box when the assassin fired the fatal shot.

Charles Forbes.

Executive Mansion,
Washington, Oct. 21, 1889.

This is to certify, that I was appointed to the Executive Mansion Dec. 31, 1864, by Abraham Lincoln, and have been in continuous service ever since. This coat has been in my possession nearly twenty-six years. This hair was cut from the head of Abraham Lincoln, by the surgeon

in charge, and in my presence, at the post mortem examination, held at the Executive Mansion, April 15, 1865.

Thomas F. Pendel.

The following letter is from another employe of the White House, of well-known reputation as a truthful and honorable man, who has had charge of the Executive Mansion through the three last administrations:

Executive Mansion,
Washington, Oct. 21, 1890

Mr F. G. Logan,

Dear Sir:—I write to inform you that Mr. Thomas F. Pendel, of 304 M Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., has in his possession the coat worn by President Lincoln at the time of his assassination, April 14, 1865. If you wish to secure the coat you need have no fears as to its genuineness, as Mr. Pendel is a man whose truth and veracity are well known in this city. I have known of his having the coat for over fourteen years. Mr. Charles Forbes, of

the War Department, also knows this coat to be the original.

Very Respy

E. S. Densmore.

Lincoln's shawl is indeed an impressive relic. It is a large, fine, gray shawl, with a broad and handsome border in colors across the ends. It is slightly yellow from age, and the colors of the figured part are slightly faded. It is somewhat worn and has one hole in it, but considering its age is in a good state of preservation. This is the oldest of the relics, and was brought from Springfield; and how long Lincoln had used it there is unknown.

The pocket knife which he had in his pocket at the time of the assassination, is of medium size, and originally had four blades, two of which have been broken out, and the other two of which are much worn from sharpening. The handle is very peculiar, and has "A. Lincoln" on both sides of it, each letter being engraved

on one of a series of diamond-shaped inlayings of silver or some other metal. The knife seems to be of American manufacture, and to have been made expressly to be presented to the President.

The walking-stick is carved in a more elaborate than elegant manner from a piece of oak taken from the rebel ram Merrimac, and has a head made of ebony or some other black wood. The carvings, which extend over the upper half of it, give the information that it was presented to President Lincoln by the 152nd regiment of New York Volunteer Infantry.

The other relics are of almost tragic interest, and stand closely connected with the assassination. The first of these is a little old-fashioned photograph, evidently brought from Springfield, but on the lower margin of which, an hour before his death, Lincoln wrote his name and his last written words. Then there is the black silk stock, of fine material, and lined with



A. Lincoln

A. LINCOLN,
WITH HIS LAST AUTOGRAPH.

white figured satin; but the bow is gone. On the lining is written in two places "A. Lincoln," in Lincoln's handwriting.

But of all the Lincoln relics in Mr. Logan's possession, by far the most precious is the veritable black broadcloth frock coat which Lincoln wore when he was assassinated. It is of the finest make, is of a size corresponding to Lincoln's figure, and is in perfect preservation, except where it has been cut with knife or scissors. Lincoln was shot in the head, behind the ear, and as little or no blood flowed from the wound, those who went to his help were at a loss to know in what part of the body he was shot. The first impression was that he had been shot through the heart; and in searching for a wound in that region, his coat was cut with a knife, in a zig-zag line, from the button-hole to the left arm-pit, and then down the sleeve.

Who did this, and why he did it, instead of unbuttoning the coat, is not known.

In the last twenty-seven years a good part of the left sleeve and of the facing on the left side have been clipped away, and presented as souvenirs to great men. Each of the presidents since Lincoln has received a piece. It is fittingly accompanied by the little ringlet of Lincoln's hair, a portion only of a lock in Mr. Pendel's possession, which is deposited in a finger-ring box, and preserved with greater care even than jewelry.

That these precious relics were in the possession of Forbes and Pendel was well known in Washington and frequently referred to in the Washington newspapers for a quarter of a century before they were transferred to Chicago. Showmen, of high and low degree, have been trying all that time to capture them, but their overtures were not even honored with an answer. In every case, however, their offers were preceeded by the most careful investigations, and so well has their genuiness been

established that no one has ever had the hardihood to exhibit fraudulent corresponding articles. The exact location that this collection will have in the great Exposition is not yet decided.



Horatio N. Rust

71.2009.084 04518

71.2009.084.04518

